

THE GULL



GOLDEN GATE AUDUBON SOCIETY NEWSLETTER

VOL. 90

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FOUNDED 1917

Casino Threatening Our Wetlands

A new casino proposal has been unveiled in Oakland that threatens the Martin Luther King, Jr. Regional Shoreline Park and its wetlands. A Florida gaming company has joined with a landless American Indian tribe, the 44-member Lower Lake Rancheria Koi Nation, to propose a massive casino complex on a 35-acre parking lot adjacent to the wetlands. The complex reportedly would include 2,000 slot machines, a hotel and spa, restaurants, and entertainment venues.

Golden Gate Audubon spent over a decade fighting in court for these wetlands. As a result of our legal efforts, 72 acres of seasonal and tidal wetlands have been restored and now host thousands of shorebirds and waterfowl. The MLK Shoreline Park is also the site of the Golden Gate Audubon Environmental Education Program, where every year we take more than a thousand East Oakland schoolchildren and their families on field trips to discover and learn about the natural world.

Casinos are 24-hour operations with extremely bright night lights. Night lighting presents a real danger to birds. It can interrupt breeding patterns, such as those of breeding birds at the wetlands—American Avocets and Black-necked Stilts—and it makes night-time predation easier since predators can see their prey more clearly.

Casinos also add traffic. It's been estimated that a casino can draw up to 30,000 new car trips a day. Imagine the impact on children and their families attempting to have a quiet nature experience at MLK, not to mention the air pollution, noise, and impacts of headlights on people and wildlife.



Black-necked Stilts, Marbled Godwits, and Willets at Arrowhead Marsh.

Juan Benjumea

How You Can Help

At its November meeting, the Golden Gate Audubon Board expressed unanimous opposition to a casino at this site. If you would like to support this effort, please call us at 510.843.2222 or send an email to ggas@goldengateaudubon.org.

by Arthur Feinstein, Conservation Director

Birds and More Down Under

The October 2004 Golden Gate Audubon trip to Australia, led by the ever-charming George Peyton, was a huge success, both for the number of birds and critters seen and for the great enjoyment of all participants.

Lyrebirds, bowerbirds, kookaburras, honey-eaters (huge in numbers of individuals as well as species), storks and cranes, lorikeets (small parrots), parrots, and Galahs (noisy, pink and gray parrot-type birds) were in abundance. Sulfur-Crested cockatoos were beautiful, large and somewhat pesty—one nipped my leg for a bite of a "ham and salad" sandwich (yes—a full salad including beets in your ham sandwich, an Australian specialty found in all the cafes).

In the two weeks that 18 intrepid Golden Gate Audubon birders toured Australia (some went on to Tasmania and some to Ayres Rock and Alice Springs in central Australia for a third week), we identified over 290 species of birds. Unlike our own "little brown jobbies," most were beautiful, colorful, and fairly large. In other words, birding in Australia is pretty easy compared to the United States.

The group stayed in large cities like Sydney and Melbourne for only a few days. The predominant theme was rainforests, the Great Barrier Reef, and the outback, the semi-arid, scrub brush country of the Mallee in northwest Victoria.

My favorite experience was waking up at the Chambers Rainforest lodge in Queensland. Here we awoke to an incredible chorus of birds

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ROSTER

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Allan Ridley ('05)	Education
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Autumn Garrett ('07)	Membership

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Leora Feeney	FAWR
Susan Groves	Field Trips
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The Golden Gate Audubon Society was founded January 15, 1917, and became a chapter of National Audubon in 1948. Golden Gate Audubon Society membership is \$25 per year. Renewals should be sent to the Golden Gate Audubon office. Monthly meeting: second Friday in the West Bay; third Thursday in the East Bay, 7 p.m.

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Thank You to a Great Refuge Manager



Marge Kolar, the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (FWS) Refuge Manager for the San Francisco Bay National Wildlife Refuge Complex, is moving to the FWS California/Nevada Field Office in Sacramento to direct the management of all National Wildlife Refuges (NWRs) located within the two states.

This well-deserved promotion is hard for those of us who know, admire, and respect Marge as a consummate Refuge Manager. Under her care, the San Francisco Bay National Wildlife Refuge Complex—which includes seven refuges in San Francisco and Monterey Bays and four refuges up to and including Humboldt Bay—has prospered.

Marge's 10 years have been eventful. Issues ranging from the purchase of Cargill Salt's 16,000 acres of salt ponds in the South Bay and their proposed restoration to a mix of tidal and seasonal wetlands, to restoring wetlands in the San Pablo Bay NWR have kept her busy. These wetlands help remind us that in the midst of a population of 7 million people, an incredibly rich wildlife habitat, the Bay and its wetlands, continue to survive.

For Golden Gate Audubon, Marge has special significance. During her tenure, the FWS officially requested that the Alameda National Wildlife Refuge be created from the closed Naval Air Station. Marge also made possible the hiring of Chris Bandy to manage the Alameda refuge through a cooperative arrangement with the Navy, pending final transfer of the refuge to the FWS. For many years, Marge has struggled to resolve the impasse that prevents the final transfer to FWS, and no one could have tried harder to resolve this problem. Throughout this time, we have seen the California Least Tern colony in the Alameda NWR continue to thrive and grow.

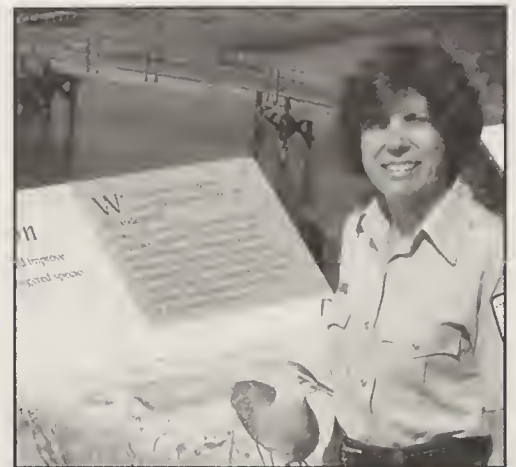
We wish Marge the very best as she moves up in the FWS. Although we are sorry to see her leave, we take comfort in knowing that her dedication and skill will be used on a broader scale. More than ever, we need the very best people as decision-makers in our resource agencies. Marge is definitely one of them.

We have been very lucky with our refuge managers in San Francisco Bay. From Roger Johnson to Fran Maiss to Rick Coleman and Marge Kolar, we have had leaders with the vision and skills needed to create a San Francisco Bay Refuge system that can sustain millions of shorebirds and waterfowl, as well as numerous endangered species. We hope our next refuge manager can fill the large footprints of those who've gone before.

Goodbye, Marge. Have a great time in Sacramento, but don't forget your friends in the Bay Area, including your smallest of friends, the California Least Terns.

Elizabeth Murdock, Executive Director

Arthur Feinstein, Conservation Director



Marge Kolar.

Board Nominations Due February 15

Golden Gate Audubon Board of Directors will have three board slots open for elected directors. The three-year terms begin on May 23, 2005. Petitions in support of nominations are due in the GGA office by February 15, 2005. Anyone wishing to submit a petition should call either Executive Director Elizabeth Murdock at 510.843.9912 or Board Development Committee Chair Jacqui Smalley at 510.655.0998. Election ballots will be published in the April Gull and must be turned in to the GGA office by May 15.

Russ Wilson, Dedicated CBC Leader and Conservationist

If there were a Christmas Bird Count Hall of Fame, Russ Wilson would be a candidate for nomination. An inherently modest person, he might object to being singled out for recognition, but his qualifications would surely impress the audience at the induction ceremony.

Russ's first Christmas Bird Count (CBC) with Golden Gate Audubon was in 1977. After counting the same East Bay location for the next two years, he was asked to take over for the leader, who moved out of the state. Russ gladly accepted and continued to lead the same area through 2003—a total of 24 years—during which he occasionally participated in the San Francisco and Point Reyes counts. His dedication to the CBC did not start on the West Coast—his first count ever was in 1938 on Grand Island in the Niagara River near Buffalo, New York.

Russ's remarkable devotion to a single East Bay count area stems in part from the location: the north end of Upper San Leandro Reservoir near Moraga. "I asked for an area that involved hiking and, if possible, a diversified habitat," he recalls. "I was fortunate to be assigned to Upper San Leandro Reservoir. Nothing could have suited me better. The place has it all—oak woodland, chaparral, riparian habitat, fields, marsh, and water, covered over a five- to six-mile hike." His extensive experience came in handy for the Alameda County Breeding Bird Atlas. For five years beginning in 1993, Russ returned to the area each spring to tally nesting birds.

Russ's interest in the outdoors started at an early age. Growing up in a small town in western New York, he liked to hike and bird in the nearby woods. "I'd even do my morning paper route with binoculars around my neck," he says. "At dawn I would take a shortcut through a cemetery where the conifers always produced a lot of birds. During warbler migration I had difficulty getting back home in time to leave for school." When he was 17, he joined the Buffalo Ornithological Society. The following year, the U.S. Biological Survey

accepted his credentials as a competent birder and issued him a federal bird-banding permit.

World War II interrupted Russ's domestic birding activities. During the three years he served in the U.S. Navy, albatrosses were the only species he saw. At war's end, he returned to his hometown—and to his favorite birding spots. Several years later, he and his family moved west and settled in El Cerrito. It was only natural that Russ would join Golden Gate Audubon.

Russ's involvement in GGA has been long-standing, wide ranging, and invaluable. Serving on the East Bay Conservation Committee, he spoke at countless meetings and wrote innumerable memos and reports on a host of issues, from the need to limit off-leash dogs in local parks to the importance of preserving avian habitat in the new Eastshore State Park. As part of his Conservation Committee work, Russ was liaison between GGA and the East Bay Regional Park District (EBRPD). Because he was also a member of the Sierra Club, he knew that the club and GGA had many causes in common, so he volunteered for the Sierra Club East Bay Public Lands Subcommittee. "This allowed me to keep each organization informed about where the other one stood on various environmental issues," Russ says. "Knowledge of both positions was helpful in meetings with the EBRPD and during the planning of the Eastshore State Park."

During the 1990s, Russ's main efforts were directed toward preventing development of Gateway Valley, located south of Highway 24 in Orinda. The valley, laced with perennial streams and rare wetlands, fits like a puzzle piece into adjoining EBRPD and East Bay Municipal Utility District property to create a critical wildlife corridor. Early on, Russ worked with a group of Orinda residents organized as Save



Russ Wilson at Upper San Leandro Reservoir on the 2003 CBC

Open Space (SOS). After 15 years—thanks to the hard work of advocates like Russ and many others from Golden Gate Audubon and the persistence of SOS—more than 1,350 acres of the valley will finally be preserved as open space (see "Gateway Valley Is Saved," September 2004 *Gull*).

Russ also volunteered as coordinator of field trips for nearly a decade, beginning in the mid-1980s, and during the same period served on the GGA board of directors. In addition, he and his wife, Dottie, have worked annually as hosts at Audubon Canyon Ranch in Marin for more than 15 years. Nominating Russ for the chapter's Audubon Activist Award in 1992, then-president Bruce Walker wrote: "We are grateful that Russ is on our side. His good nature coupled with his quiet perseverance make him a good friend and ally in dealing with the environmental battles that we are always engaged in."

Although Russ has resigned from his many GGA commitments, birds and birding are never far from his thoughts. He now has more time for another hobby: carving waterfowl and other birds in wood. The miniature sculptures depicting, for instance, a Northern Pintail or a Wood Duck are beautifully proportioned and exquisitely painted—reflecting Russ's astute eye and years of observation in the field.

by Judith Dunham
CBC Counter

Russ Wilson Team, 1995–2003

BACKYARD BIRDER

Meg Pauletich



a Western Screech-Owl. All right—I'm wild about owls, too (and in awe of big birds).

Speaking of winter visitors, how about the many kinds of shorebirds, assorted ducks and geese, and Sandhill Cranes, Bald Eagles, and other raptors? San Francisco Bay has many rich marshes, salt flats, and beaches filled with birds feeding with a frenzy. We are blessed in the Bay Area with a wealth of parklands where we can appreciate nature. The Sacramento Delta and Sacramento Valley areas are worth the drive for satisfying your appetite to see large numbers of a variety of birds gathered during the winter months.

Winter birding in most of the northern hemisphere is daunting. Hardy souls brave snow and wind chill on annual Audubon Christmas Count days. In some places, they are lucky to see a Common Raven during the entire day! Here in the Bay Area, we are spoiled—by the weather and by the variety and numbers of avian species we can enjoy. That's why, despite the increasing traffic and other annoyances of urban life, we choose

to stay here. But there is a cost to living in Paradise. I'm too old to move now, and my family is here. So

I'll put up with the crowds and feel fortunate that, within a short period of time, I can be far from the madding crowd—or simply enjoy the riches in my own backyard.

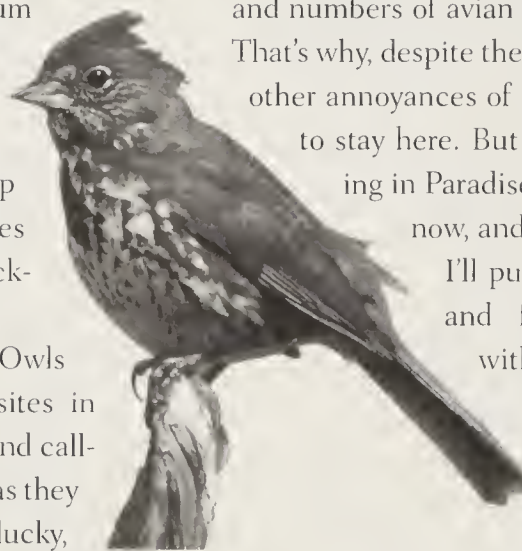
I am a sucker for small birds—I find them irresistible. In wintertime, the deciduous trees in my yard bare their branches and come alive with bouncing balls of energy: Ruby-crowned Kinglets, Chestnut-backed Chickadees, Red-breasted Nuthatches, the occasional Golden-crowned Kinglet, White-breasted Nuthatches, Bewick's Wrens, American and Lesser Goldfinches, and the ubiquitous House Finches. Perhaps because of their small size and their abundant energy, they need to feed heavily and are more conspicuous than other, larger species. The feeders in my yard—thistle, peanut, and songbird seed—are like rush hour at Grand Central Station. The Fox Squirrels hang out there, too.

Fall is my favorite season, and in November, as I write this, I look forward to welcoming our winter visitors. During spring and summer, while birds are nesting and raising their young, they are quiet and hidden behind leaves and thick shrubbery. When they come to the feeders, it is for a quick bite, then they quickly return to feed their young. They become, literally, a pain in the neck as I strain to find them in the tall trees. Now, with the trees conveniently bared, I can easily see the birds as they

search endlessly for food. Remember, like most animals, birds eat to live (while I seldom live to eat).

Okay, I also love medium-sized birds. I relish the return of the Hermit Thrush, a beautiful bird with an outstanding song. We seldom hear the haunting melody in winter. But the thrush's soft chirp is lovely and rich as it alerts me to its location on the ground close to the worms and bugs on which it feeds. The Golden-crowned Sparrow is the earliest to return and the last to leave to start a family at higher elevations. I know that fall is around the corner when I hear its plaintive three notes descending the scale: "Oh, poor me." All the woodpeckers—large (Northern Flickers), medium (Nuttall's, Acorn, and Hairy), and small (Downy)—are much more active and obvious. The Fox Sparrow churns up the damp ground as it bounces back and forth on both legs, picking up food in its thick bill.

Great-horned and Barn Owls begin searching for nesting sites in December, and their hooting and calling echo on cold winter nights as they search for mates. If you are lucky, you might hear the wavering trill of



Fox Sparrow

Birding in Panama

The Latin America Committee's 2005 trip to Panama will begin on April 2. Principal guide will be Guido Berguido, Director of Education Programs at the Panama Audubon Society. Guido took over as a guide for the 2004 trip, earning high praise for his birding skills. Advantage Tours Panama, his company, will be responsible for logistical arrangements.

The following plan is tentative, pending confirmation. We will spend three nights in the Canal Zone and one morning at Canopy Tower to ensure seeing Blue Cotinga and Green Shrike-vireo. After staying the fourth night at Sierra Llorona Lodge, we will spend a morning on Achioté Road, then fly to David in western

Panama. After three nights based at Los Quetzales Lodge, we will return to Panama City on Saturday afternoon. Those who must be back to work on Monday morning will depart; others will spend the next two days in Cerro Azul highlands east of Panama City. Two additional extensions include two nights at the new Burbayar Lodge in western Darien highlands followed by two nights camping near a Harpy Eagle nest toward the Caribbean coast.

Cost is not yet available, but will be substantially less than that charged by commercial birding tours. For details, consult the GGA website (www.goldengateaudubon.org/LAC/_Field_Trips) or call Bob Risebrough, 510.549.2476, pelecanus@igc.org.

PROGRAMS

Anne McTavish



Programs begin at 7:30 p.m. At 7 p.m., healthful, delicious snacks are served by hospitality coordinator, Susanne Shields. (All utensils, cups, and plates are made from corn, wheat, soy, and sugarcane by-products, and are compostable and break down in landfills in three weeks.) If you would like to suggest food and drinks for meetings or would like to help, call Susanne at 415.810.4900, or email susannekshields@yahoo.com. For information about upcoming events, detailed directions, or updates, see www.goldengateaudubon.org/Chapter/programs2005.

The Magic of Malheur: Oasis in the Great Basin Desert

San Francisco

Friday, January 14

Steve Shunk

Oregon naturalist Steve Shunk will offer a grand tour of Malheur National Wildlife Refuge and nearby Steens Mountain. Malheur lies at the heart of southeast Oregon's "sagebrush ocean." Snowmelt from the north and south flows into this expansive marshland, creating more than 100,000 acres of shallow wetlands. The refuge's riparian, upland, and grassland habitats host a great diversity of birds and mammals.

The 340 bird species include eastern breeders like Bobolink, Eastern Kingbird, and Blue-winged Teal. The confluence of desert and marshland invite nesting birds as diverse as Franklin's Gull and Sage Thrasher. Spring brings white waves of Snow and Ross's Geese, and fall sees the passage of more than 15 recorded raptor species. More than 30 different warblers have been documented between the fall and spring peaks. Wintering birds include Northern Shrike and Bohemian Waxwing. The source of most of this water is the snowpack from Steens Mountain, a 30-mile-long fault block that rises more than a mile above the Alvord Desert. The Steens hosts such breeding birds such as Black Rosy-Finch, Red-naped Sapsucker, and Mountain Bluebird.

County Fair building, Strybing Arboreteum, Golden Gate Park, 9th Ave. at Lincoln Way
Directions: www.strybing.org/visiting/page2html

Breeding Birds of Alberta's Boreal Forest

Berkeley

Thursday, January 20

Steve Shunk

Steve Shunk's slide show will present a journey across northern Alberta's boreal forest. In this wide swath of forest, Aspen, Balsam, Poplar and White Birch from the south are joined by Jack Pine, Black Spruce, and White Spruce, which dominate farther north. An abundant water supply feeds not only this blend of deciduous and coniferous forests but also high-volume, slow-moving rivers, large lakes, and thousands of swamps, bogs, and fens.

The region's habitat diversity attracts a huge array of nesting bird species, including 24 waterfowl, more than 20 eastern warblers, more than a dozen sparrows, and eight species each of shorebirds, Larids, and flycatchers.

Common nesting birds include White-winged Scoter, Lesser Yellowlegs, Bonaparte's Gull, Three-toed Woodpecker, Least Flycatcher, Bay-breasted Warbler, and Nelson's Sharp-tailed Sparrow. Each species occupies a different niche. Some prefer open Aspen stands, and others breed in Black Spruce bogs, while still others nest on lakeshores or open water.

As a bonus, expect Steve Shunk to show some stunning images from Jasper's northern Rockies.

Northbrae Community Church, 941 The Alameda (between Solano and Marin)
Directions: www.northbrae.org/directions.html

Spring Birding Classes

Evening bird classes taught by Joe Morlan will begin February 8, 9, and 10. All classes meet from 7 to 9:15 p.m. in room 307, Marina Middle School, 3500 Fillmore at Bay Street in San Francisco. Free parking is in the school lot off Bay St.

Slides illustrate all lectures, and the text for all classes is "A Field Guide to Birds of North America," fourth edition, by the National Geographic Society. Adobe Acrobat plugin is required. "The Sibley Guide to Birds" is recommended as an adjunct text for Ornithology II & III.

Field Ornithology I: Introduction to birds and birding, combining basic field skills with the study of bird ecology, biology, evolution and behavior. Class meets on Tuesdays. Part A (EA101): Feb. 8–March 22; Part B (EA105): April 5–May 24.

Field Ornithology II: Continuing in-depth study of identification and status of North American land birds, including blackbirds, orioles, and finches. Class meets on Wednesdays. Part A (EA110): Feb. 9–March 23; Part B (EA115): April 6–May 25.

Field Ornithology III: Continuing study of North American water birds including gulls, terns, alcids, and doves. Class meets on Thursdays. Part A (EA120): Feb. 10–March 24; Part B (EA125): April 7–May 26.

The instructor may arrange optional field trips on weekends. Bring binoculars and field guides to class if you have them. Fees are \$130 for each seven-week course. Pre-registration is strongly advised. For further information call 415.561.1860. Register online at www.evolvewww.com/ce.ccsf/, or mail or fax the registration form, available at www.ccsf.edu/Services/Continuing_Education/images/regform/reg.html.

For additional information see the instructor's web site at <http://fog.ccsf.edu/~jmorlan/>. Joe Morlan is co-author of "Birds of San Francisco and the Bay Area" and "Birds of Northern California." He is also coordinator of the recorded Northern California Birdbox sponsored by Golden Gate Audubon.

FIELD TRIPS

Susan Groves



Birding for Children

San Francisco Botanical Garden

Saturdays, January 1 and February 5

Coleaders: Angie Geiger and Nancy DeStefanis, San Francisco Nature Education, and Darin Dawson, San Francisco Botanical Garden docent, 415.387.9160, www.sfnature.org

Meet at 10 a.m. for this first Saturday of the month trip at kiosk/bookstore near main gate of San Francisco Botanical Garden at Strybing Arboretum, Ninth Avenue at Lincoln Way. See *December Gull* for details.

Arrowhead Marsh

Alameda County

Saturday, January 1

Leader: Bob Power

510.482.9601, rcpower@sbcglobal.net

Meet at 9 a.m. Get your 2005 list started with a nice sampling of shorebirds, ducks, raptors, and passerines. Beginners welcome. From Berkeley, take I-880 south and exit at Hegenberger Rd. Turn right onto Hegenberger and then right onto Edgewater. We will congregate at East Bay Regional Parks Garretson Point parking lot at end of Edgewater.

Strybing Arboretum

San Francisco

Sundays, January 2 and February 6

Coleaders: Allan Ridley and Helen McKenna, 415.566.3241

For this regular first Sunday of the month half-day trip, meet at front gate of arboretum, Ninth Ave. and Lincoln Way. See *December Gull* for details.

Palo Alto Baylands and Mountain View Shoreline

San Mateo–Santa Clara Counties

Saturday, January 8

Leader: Dan Murphy
415.564.0074, murphsf@yahoo.com

Meet in parking lot across road from duck pond at Baylands Preserve at 8 a.m. The

wetlands, marshes and open waters at Palo Alto and Mountain View are among the most easily accessible sites for birders on San Francisco Bay. Levees and boardwalks make these excellent spots to view 60–80 species of ducks, shorebirds, waders, gulls, raptors and other birds that winter in the South Bay. Trip ends at 3 p.m. Wear clothes appropriate for cold, wet weather. If it has been raining, wear boots or waders since levees can be quite muddy. Rain will not cancel trip, but may shorten it. Bring lunch and liquids.

From Hwy. 101 in Palo Alto (just south of Dumbarton Bridge), exit at Embarcadero Rd. East. Stay to the right (do not take Oregon Expressway). Go east over freeway to end of street, turn left, and continue to duck pond on left. We will meet in parking lot immediately to right of gate (gate is locked until 8 a.m.).



Coyote Hills Regional Park

Fremont

Saturday, January 8

Leader: Rusty Scalf

510.666.9936, rscalf@jps.net

Meet at 8 a.m. at Visitor Center parking lot. Coyote Hills is a unique park with fresh water marsh and salt pond habitat. We should see ducks, shorebirds, wintering songbirds, and raptors. Bring lunch and liquids. Beginners welcome. Heavy rain cancels.

From East Bay, take I-880 south to Rt. 84/Dumbarton Bridge exit. Exit right and continue west. Exit on Paseo Padre Pkwy. Turn right and continue north 1 mile, then turn left on Patterson Ranch Rd. to Coyote Hills.

[\$]

Bodega Bay

Sonoma County

Sunday, January 9

Leader: Bob Lewis

510.845.5001, Rlewis0727@aol.com

Meet at 10 a.m. at first parking lot just after entry kiosk to Doran Regional Park. We will begin by birding the rich Bodega Harbor area and Bodega Head, covering as many

spots as time and birds permit. Bring lunch. We may bird until 2–3 p.m. Rain cancels. Beginners welcome.



Aquatic Park

San Francisco

Sunday, January 9

Leader: Carol Kiser, San Francisco Maritime National Historical Park Ranger, 415.561.7100 or 561.7104

Meet at 9:30 a.m. at foot of Hyde Street Pier (Hyde and Jefferson) for this two-hour beginners' bird walk. Discover birds next door to the urban environment. Dress in layers. Trip is wheelchair accessible.

Arrowhead Marsh Rail Watch

Alameda County

Monday, January 10

Leader: Courtenay Peddle, 510.532.8911 (no calls before 9am), capeddle@there.net

Meet at Arrowhead Marsh parking lot at 10:30 a.m. to spend a couple hours studying Clapper Rails that won't have anywhere to hide during the eight-foot-plus high tide. Heavy rain cancels. Bring scope if you have one. All levels of birders welcome. See *December Gull* for directions to parking lot.

Lake Merritt

Oakland

Saturday, January 15

Leader: Travis Hails

510.451.1207, travishails@hotmail.com

Check website for details.

Panoche Valley

San Benito County

Saturday, January 22

Leader: Chris Carpenter, 510.639.1262 (day), 510.547.2201 (eve.), cgbirds@comcast.net

Meet at 8 a.m. at intersection of Hwy. 25 and J-1 in Paicines, 12.5 mi. south of Hollister. From there we will drive east to I-5 south of Los Banos. This trip traverses raptor habitat, which usually produces Golden Eagle and Merlin, plus Mountain Bluebirds, Phainopeplas, and Vesper Sparrows. Be sure

to fill your gas tank before leaving Hollister. Carpool from the Bay Area if possible. Bring lunch and warm clothes. Trip ends about 3 p.m. Rain cancels.

Upper San Leandro Reservoir

Moraga

Saturday, January 22

Leader: Denise Wight, 510.547.6822 (w), 925.377.0951 (h), blkittiwake@yahoo.com

Meet at 8 a.m. in Valle Vista Staging Area parking lot (EBMUD land). We will look for woodland and grassland birds, and for waterbirds if the reservoir water level returns to normal. Conditions may be muddy. Heavy rain cancels. If weather is questionable, call 925.377.0951 after 6:30 a.m. on day of trip for update.

Take Hwy. 24 to Orinda and exit on Moraga Hwy. Continue approximately 4 miles to Canyon Rd. Turn right at traffic signal and continue 1.2 miles to Valle Vista Staging Area.



Cosumnes Preserve, Woodbridge Road, and Staten Island

San Joaquin County

Sunday, January 23

Leader: Bruce Mast, 510.271.4785, 510.435.1371(cell), Bmast@alumni.rice.edu

Meet at 9 a.m. at Cosumnes River Preserve Visitor's Center. We should see winter riparian birds, as well as cranes, swans, raptors, and waterfowl, and possibly Wood Duck and American Bittern. We can lunch at Wimpy's near Staten Island, or birders can bring lunch. Trip will end around 2 p.m. Beginners welcome. Be prepared for cold.

Take I-5 to Twin Cities Rd. exit (about midway between Stockton and Sacramento). Take Twin Cities Rd. east to Franklin Blvd. Follow sign to Visitor Center. For details: www.cosumnes.org/map.htm



Lake Merritt and Lakeside Park

Oakland

Wednesday, January 26

Coleaders: Hilary Powers, 510.834.1066; Ruth Tobey, ruth Tobey@earthlink.net; Travis Hails

Meet on lake side of nature center on Bellevue Avenue at 9:30 a.m. We will see who is visiting bird sanctuary, then stroll across park to garden area, aiming to reach it at 10 a.m. when it opens. After checking out the warblers, sparrows, and woodpeckers, we will return to lake about 11 or 11:15 and walk toward Embarcadero to view seasonal visitors to lake. Trip will be on smooth, mostly level paths and lawns, with some mild slopes and perhaps a curb or two.

Take 12, N, or NL bus to Grand and Perkins and walk into park on Perkins, or park in free lot at boathouse, 568 Bellevue. From parking lot, walk past children's art center to far side of bird yard with freshwater ponds.



Berkeley to Richmond on San Francisco Bay Trail

Alameda County

Saturday, January 29

Leader: Kathy Jarrett, 510.547.1233 (no calls after 9pm), kathy_jarrett@yahoo.com

Meet at 8:30 a.m. at Aquatic Park in Berkeley, or meet leader at 7:50 a.m. at North Berkeley BART Station to ride to Aquatic Park. We will bird at Aquatic Park, East Bay Shoreline Park, Richmond Marina Bay, Miller-Knox EBRP, and all along the Bay Trail from Berkeley to Richmond. Bring sunscreen, lunch, and liquids. (There is a small store/café at Richmond Marina Bay where food/drink may be purchased.) Bicycle helmet required. Rain cancels.

From University Ave. in Berkeley, turn south on Sixth St. Go three blocks, then turn west toward

bay on Bancroft Way. When road ends at Aquatic Park, turn left to a small parking lot near children's playground. North Berkeley BART Station is just north of University Ave. on Sacramento St. between Delaware and Virginia Streets. View BART schedules online at www.transitinfo.org. Remember to check weekend schedules.

Bay Trail: <http://baytrail.abag.ca.gov/>

Berkeley bicycle map: www.cityofberkeley.info/maproom/Maps/pdfs/bicycleCircNet.pdf

Berkeley Bicycle Boulevards: www.ci.berkeley.ca.us/transportation/Bicycling/BB/

BicycleBoulevardNetwork.html

Richmond Greenway: www.railtrails.org/field/california/documents/features/main.asp



Merced National Wildlife Refuge

Merced County

Sunday, January 30

Leader: Mark Miller, 209.304.0194, snowyowl98683@msn.com

Meet at 9 a.m. at viewing area at end of auto tour route. This area is marked by an informational sign and has a bolted-down telescope, a platform, and a parking area. Expect to see large numbers of wintering waterbirds, including Ross's Goose and Sandhill Crane, and a variety of raptors. Bring lunch; also bring scope or FRS radio if you have them. Trip ends by 3 p.m.

Take I-580/I-5/SR 152 or US 101/SR152 through Los Banos, east to SR 59. Take SR 59 north past town of El Nido to Sandy Mush Rd., marked by a sign pointing to refuge. Turn left, go west to refuge entrance, and turn left. Allow 2 hours travel time from East Bay. We will try to take a minimum number of cars on auto tour.

Honey Lake and Greater Sage-Grouse

Lassen County

Saturday and Sunday, March 12 and 13

Leader: Dave Quady, 510.704.9353, davequady@att.net

We will search for Greater Sage-Grouse, Bald Eagles, and other wintering birds of the Eastern Sierra. Trip is limited to first 20 participants who sign up after January 25. Detailed directions will be provided to those who are confirmed on trip. Carpooling is encouraged. Lodging is available in Susanville; primitive camping is available in Honey Lake State Wildlife Area. Bring warm clothing, lunches for both days, and scope.



Contact Susan Groves, Field Trips Committee Chair, at 510.654.5954 or susangroves@att.net:

- if you can share a ride or if you need a ride,
- if you have difficulty reaching a leader and need information,
- if you have suggestions for trips, or
- if you are interested in leading a trip.

key



Carpool



Entrance fee required



Biking trip

OBSERVATIONS

October 23–November 30, 2004
Bruce Mast



November brought us holidays and winter birds. As the migrating waves of warblers and hawks dwindled, birders turned their attention to geese, ducks, and sparrows.

Loons to Ducks

Beginning Nov 7, a Red-necked Grebe spent a couple weeks offshore at Crissy Field, SF (HC). Red-necked Grebes were also observed off Limantour Beach, PRNS, MRN, on the 12th (JC) and off Doran Beach Rd, Bodega Bay, SON on the 14th (DiW). An early morning seawatch from Ocean Blvd in Moss Beach produced 2 Black-vented Shearwaters on Oct 29 (RST). On Nov 1 and 2, an Ashy Storm-Petrel wandered into SF Bay as far as Coyote Pt, SM (RST). Also on the 1st, a female 2nd year **Brown Booby** (*Sula leucogaster*) took up position atop a buoy near the Farallon Islands (PP, fide KH). On Nov 4, a California Condor was reported over Livermore, ALA. Ventana Wilderness Society confirmed that a Condor was "missing" and wasn't transmitting (fide PG).

Numerous birders reported flocks of migrating Greater White-fronted Geese, Snow and Ross's Geese, Canada "Cackling" Geese, Brants, and Tundra Swans. A male Eurasian Green-Winged Teal turned up along Redwood Shores Parkway, SM, on Nov 18 (PaB, RST) and a 2nd sighting was reported on the 28th from Stevens Cr, Mountain View, SCL (BJ, BrM). A Nov 18 Sequoia Audubon trip to Coyote Pt, SM, found a 2nd Harlequin Duck accompanying the local resident (SC; MW, oob). On Nov 23-28, a male Harlequin was seen swimming on Richardson Bay (EB; WL, KA, SA). Black Scoters were reported on Nov 2 off Stinson Beach, MRN (KH), and on the 21st from Ocean Blvd in Moss Beach, SM (RST). The same seawatch produced a Long-tailed Duck. Bayside, a Long-tailed joined a scaup flock in South SF, SM, on Nov 13 (RST) and on the 30th, a female was located at

Cesar Chavez Park in Berkeley, ALA (RS). A number of duck reports listed Eurasian Wigeons; Tufted Ducks; White-winged Scoters; Barrow's Goldeneye; and Hooded, Common, and Red-breasted Mergansers.



White-winged Scoter.

Raptors to Alcids

At Milagra Ridge, SM, on Nov 20, 2 Swainson's Hawks were observed flying north toward San Bruno Mountain (anon.). On Nov 12, a Harlan's Hawk joined the numerous Red-taileds around the Newby Island landfill, SCL (EF). On the 20th, a probable Harlan's crossed the Golden Gate and headed toward downtown SF (SB). Nov 3-7, American and Pacific Golden-Plovers worked the fields near Spaletta (C) Ranch and Drake's Beach turn-off, PRNS, MRN (StA, RS, DVP, RyT, MB). On Oct 24, a Pacific Golden-Plover probed the exposed mudflats near Owl Cyn in Bodega Harbor, SON (LL). More than 60 Mountain Plovers returned to Flannery Rd near Hwy 113, SOL, on Nov 25 (JH; KA). On Oct 22, a possible **Gray-tailed Tattler** (*Heteroscelus brevipes*) was studied in the tidepools below Merrie Way, SF (BF). On Nov 12, a late Baird's Sandpiper joined peep flocks along Coyote Cr, near Newby Island landfill, SCL (EF).

Pectoral Sandpipers remained at Altamont Cr, Livermore, ALA, through Oct 28 (AEd; mob) and at New Chicago Marsh, DENWR, SCL, through Nov 5 (BRe, FV, DaW). On

Nov 7, a juvenile Sharp-tailed Sandpiper was found at the Huderman Slough Wetland Enhancement Area, NAP/SON (DAs). Roek Sandpipers returned to the Farallon Islands, SF, Oct 28-Nov 3 (AB) and to the mouth of Bodega Harbor, SON, on the 20th (TC). Also at Bodega Harbor, a Stilt Sandpiper was noted on Oct 22 (GF). A Ruff remained through Oct 25 in New Chicago Marsh, where 2 have been present since July 11th (PMT). Red Phalaropes were reported from locations in SON, MRN, SF, and SM.

Two **Lesser Black-backed Gulls** (*Larus fuscus*) showed up near Alviso Marina, SCL, on Oct 31 and 1 remained on Salt Pond A16 through Nov 7 (DVP, MB; mob). First-winter Glaucous Gulls stopped at Venice Beach in Half Moon Bay on Nov 6 (DSi) and at the Palo Alto Baylands duck pond, beginning the 28th (SR; MD, LeH, BB). Oct 21-24, a juvenile Sabine's Gull frequented SCL bay waters between Palo Alto Flood Control Basin, Salt Pond A1, and Charleston Slough (GB; mob). A Common Tern kept company with Forster's Terns Elsie Roemer Bird Sanctuary in ALA, ALA, on Oct 28 (DL). A **Long-billed Murrelet** (*Brachyramphus perdix*) was spotted on Nov 20, diving at the mouth of Bodega Harbor (TC). Ancient Murrelets were reported from Coyote Pt, SM, on Nov 2 (RST); Pescadero Beach, SM, on the 13th (ADM); and along Hwy 1, north of Muir Beach, MRN, on the 28th (JW).

Doves to Thrashers

Burrowing and Short-eared Owls returned to several winter haunts and a roosting Long-eared Owl was spotted near the Bodega Marine Lab in Bodega Bay on Oct 27 (DH). On Oct 31, a Common Poorwill was seen along Loma Prieta Rd, SCL (ADM). On Nov 29, a late Hammond's Flycatcher was reported from Don Castro RP in Hayward, ALA (KH). Sequoia Audubon Society found an Eastern Phoebe on its Nov 13 field trip to Pescadero Marsh, SM, where it lingered a week (ADM; mob). Researchers at the Farallon Islands reported a **Dusky-capped Flycatcher** (*Myiarchus tuberculifer*) in late Oct (AB). Tropical Kingbirds were observed on Oct 24 at L Merced, SF (CDL); on Nov 6 at Doran Beach, Bodega Bay (MiB); and on the 24th near Fort Pt, SF (SAn). On

U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service

Oct 22, a **Yellow-green Vireo** (*Vireo flavo-viridis*) was in the low bushes at the Nunes (A) Ranch, PRNS (ST, DN). On Oct 28, a fly-over Townsend's Solitaire was the 6th known record for Mount Davidson, SF (PS). On the 31st another Townsend's Solitaire along Loma Prieta Rd, SCL, flew across the SCZ line (ADM). On Oct 23, a Brown Thrasher wandered west to the Mendoza (B) Ranch at PRNS (MB).

Wood Warblers to Finches

On Oct 21, a Red-throated Pipit turned up at Abbott's Lagoon, PRNS, (SHo; DLu) and the same locale yielded a flock of 5 **Sprague's Pipit** (*Anthus spragueii*) Nov 13-20 (AS; JS). Summer Tanagers were reported on Nov 7 at the Nunes (A) Ranch (DD) and on the 29th in GGP, SF (ASH). Also on the 29th, late Western Tanagers passed through GGP (ASH) and Berkeley, ALA (GC). Clay-colored, Swamp, and White-throated Sparrows were regular sightings (mob). On Oct 29, an American Tree Sparrow spent a day at the Nunes (A) Ranch (RS). Beginning Oct. 4th a Lark Bunting remained through Nov 16 in the company of a *Zonotrichia* flock at Bayfront Park in Menlo Park, SM (RF; mob). The Bay Area experienced a mini-irruption of Harris's Sparrows, beginning with a late Oct. report from the Farallon Islands, SF (AB). In SM, Harris's Sparrow was documented at Coyote Pt, SM, on Oct 25-Nov 2 (RST; GD) and at the mouth of Frenchman's Cr on the 21st (EF, DLb). In MRN, a juvenile bird turned up below Hawk Hill on Nov 2 (LCo) and at the Las Gallinas Sewage Ponds on the 10th (EV). Bodega Head produced a SON record on the 14th (DiW).

A flock of up to 12 Lapland Longspurs visited "Mt. Trashmore" at Hayward RS, ALA, Oct 24-Nov 7 (BR; mob). A handful of Chestnut-collareds and a McCown's added to the ID challenge (BR; MB, RyT). A couple Lapland and Chestnut-collareds lingered through the 27th. Elsewhere, Lapland Longspurs were tallied at the Farallon Islands in late Oct (AB), at Spaletta (C) Ranch on Oct 22 (ST), and at Abbott's Lagoon on Oct 21 (SHo; DLu) and Nov 22 (BU).

The late Oct report from the Farallons also included a **Snow Bunting** (*Plectrophenax nivalis*) sighting (AB). Nov 25-29, Rose-

Wood Warbler Sightings

Tennessee Warbler			Black-throated Gray Warbler		
10/23	Bolinas, MRN	KH	10/23	Nunes (FA) Ranch, PRNS, MRN	MB
11/7	L Merced, SF	JRy	10/31, 11/20	Flood Park, Menlo Park, SM	RF
Nashville Warbler			11/5	L Cunningham Park, San Jose, SCL	KP
10/20-11/3	Farallon Islands, SF	AB	Blackburnian Warbler		
10/25	Pilarcitos Cr, Half Moon Bay, SM	RST	10/30, 11/2	L Merced, SF	AWi; mob
10/29	San Tomas Aquino Cr, SCL, SCL	BB	Palm Warbler		
10/30	Upper Cole Valley, SF	PS	10/20-11/3	Farallon Islands, SF	AB
10/29, 30	Corte Madera, MRN	TH, DE, RoS	10/22	PRNS Lighthouse, MRN	ST
11/3	Pine Gulch Cr, Bolinas, MRN	KH	10/22-11/2	Coyote Pt Yacht Clb, SM	RST; mob
11/6	Highway 1 at Salmon Cr, SON	AW, mob	10/24	Sea Ranch, SON	LS
11/12	Limantour Youth Hostel, PRNS, MRN	JC	10/26-11/29	San Tomas Aquino Cr, SCL, SCL	MM
11/23	Middle L, GGP, SF	JC, oob	10/29	Two Rock Training Facility, SON	LB
11/25	N L, GGP, SF	ASH	10/30	Harding Golf Course, SF	KR
Virginia's Warbler			11/2	Hawk Hill, MRN	LCo
10/25	Alcatraz Island, SF	MZ, LE	11/4-6	Redwood Shores, SM	CDL, MU, JRy
11/6	Upper Cole Valley, SF	PS	11/5	Corte Madera, MRN	DLu
Yellow Warbler			11/5	San Rafael, MRN	JC
10/22	Lobos Willows, Presidio, SF	JC	11/6, 7	Nunes (A) Ranch, PRNS, MRN	DVP RyT, MB
11/1	Miller/Knox RP, Richmond, CC	BoB	11/7	Rodeo Lagoon, MRN	TH
11/6	Mendoza (B) Ranch, PRNS, MRN	DVP RyT, MB	11/13	Littlefield Ave., South SF, SM	RST
11/26	L Merced, SF	ASH	11/17	Sunnyvale, SCL	MM
Magnolia Warbler			11/24-30	Lafayette Park, SF	PMC; CDL, RF
10/20, 11/3	Farallon Islands, SF	AB	Northern Waterthrush		
			11/ 28	Mountain View, SCL	BJ, BrM

Abbreviations for Observers:DA, David Armstrong; DAs, Dick Ashford; KA, Ken Archibald. RA, Richard Ackley; SA, Su Anderson. SAn, Steve Anderson; StA, Steve Abbott; AB, Adam Brown; BB, Bill Bousman; BoB, Bob Battagin; DB, Dennis Braddy; EB, Ellen Blustein; KB, Ken Burton; LB, Larry Broderick; MB, Matt Brady; MiB, Michelle Brodie; PB, Patricia Braddy; PaB, Pat Boor; SB, Steve Bauer; GC, Graham Chisholm; HC, Hugh Cotter; JC, Josiah Clark; LC, Les Chibana; LCo, Lew Cooper; SC, Sue Cossins; TC, Ted Chandik; ADM, Al DeMartini; DD, Dave Dysick; GD, Gary Deghi; JD, Jim Danzenbaker; MD, Mike Danzenbaker; AE, Al Eisner; DE, Daniel Edelstein; LE, Lewis Ellingham ;MWE, Mark Eaton; BF, Brian Fitch; EF, Eric Feuss; GF, George Finger; MF, Mike Feighner; RF, Rich Ferrick; Rfi, RF; PG, Phil Gordon; SG, Steve Glover; ASH, Alan Hopkins; DH, David Hofmann; JH, Jim Holmes; KH, Keith Hansen; KHi, Kevin Hinsta; LH, Lisa Hug; LeH, LeH; SH, Steve Huckabone; SHo, Steve Howe; TH, Tony Harrow; AJ, Alvaro Jaramillo; BJ, Bob Juhl; CL, Cindy Lieurance; CDL, Calvin Lou; DL, Don Lewis; DLb, Dan Labeaune; DLu, Dave Lukas; JL, John Luther; LL, Les Lieurance; RL, Robin Leong; RLe, Rick Lebaudour; WL, William Legge; BEM, Bruce Mast, BrM, Brooke Miller; DM, Dan Murphy; JM, Joe Morlan; KMK, Kevin McKereghan; MM, Mike Mammoser; PM, Peter Metropulos; PMC, Pat McCulloch; PMT, Pepper Marcus-Tenn; DN, Dave Nelson; KO, Kris Olson; BP, Bob Power; JP, John Poole; KP, Kathy Parker; MP, Mike Parmeter; PP, Peter Pyle; BR, Bob Richmond; Bre, BRe; JR, Jean Richmond; JRy, Jennifer Rycenga; KR, Kathy Robertson; MR, Mark Rauzon; MRo, Mike Rogers; SR, Steve Rottenborn; AS, Anthony Surmack; DS, David Suddjian; DSi, Dan Singer; ES, Emilie Strauss; ESe, Emily Serkin; JS, Judi Sierra; LS, Lang Stevenson; PS, Paul Saraceni; RS, Rich Stallcup; RSc, Rusty Scalf; RoS, Ron Storey; RST, Ron Thorn; RyT, Ryan Terrill; ST, Scott Terrill; BU, Bob Ulvang; MU, Myra Ulvang; DVP, David Vander Pluym; EV, Ed Vermeulen; FV, Frank Vanslager; AW, Alan Wight; AWi, Adam Winer; DW, Denise Wight; DaW, David Weber; DWi, Dave Wimpfheimer; DiW, Diane Williams; JW, Jim White; MW, Martha Wessitsh; JY, James Yurchenco; Matt Zlatunich, MZ

Semicolons separate original observer(s) from subsequent observer(s). Abbreviation "mob" = many observers, "oob" = other observers. Information is compiled from BirdBox transcripts and regional listservs; the author apologizes for any errors or omissions

Abbreviations for Counties and Others: ALA, Alameda; BBA, Breeding Bird Atlas; CBC, Christmas Bird Count; CC, Contra Costa; CCFS, Coyote Cr Field Station; Cr, Creek; Cyn, Canyon; DENWR, Don Edwards SF Bay National Wildlife Refuge; GGP, Golden Gate Park; L, Lake; MRN, Marin; MTY, Monterey; N., N; NAP, Napa; NSMWA, NAP-SON Marshes Wildlife Area; Pt, Point; PRNS, Pt Reyes National Seashore; RP, Regional Park; Rd, Road; Res, Reservoir; RS, Regional Shoreline; SB, State Beach; SCL, Santa Clara; SF, San Francisco; SM, San Mateo; SOL, Solano; SON, Sonoma; SP, State Park; SR, State Reserve; WPCP, Water Pollution Control Plant

breasted Grosbeaks visited feeders in Oakland, ALA (BEM) and San Rafael, MRN (RA). On Nov 9, a late Black-Headed Grosbeak visited a Sunset district (SF) feeder (MW).

On Nov 5-7, a possible Orchard Oriole was working the eucalyptus at L Merced, SF (ASH, AWi, JRy). Cassin's Finch was ID'd at Hayward RS on Oct 31 (BR) and heard

calling around L Merced and Harding Park on Nov 23-26 (JC, ASH, oob). November saw an apparent irruption of montane species throughout the region, notably Red Crossbills, Pine Siskins, and Red-breasted Nuthatches. Evening Grosbeaks reported at the Presidio restoration area, SF, on Oct 22 (JC); in a Napa backyard on the 30th (MP); and at Five Brooks, PRNS, on Nov 6 (DW).

Second Annual Restore-A-Thon a Win for Birds and Volunteers

Golden Gate Audubon's second annual Restore-A-Thon brought out 80 hard-working volunteers on both sides of the bay on a beautiful Saturday morning in November.

In San Francisco, 55 workers weeded and planted seedlings along the Harding Park Golf Course and at Quail Commons in the Presidio to attract California Quail. Special thanks to Peets Coffee and Tea Co. in the mall at 16th Street and Potrero Avenue, and to Holy Bagel of Noe Valley (3872 24th Street) for contributing hot coffee and bagels. Thanks also to Noreen Weeden at Harding Park and Nancy Smith and Matt Zlatunich at the Presidio for helping make the day's efforts run smoothly. And of course, many thanks to Alan Hopkins for inspiring and organizing the San Francisco Restore-A-Thon.

Across the Bay at the Alameda Wildlife Refuge, 25-plus volunteers cleared and prepared nesting areas for California Least Terns. They weeded, tossed oyster shells and driftwood, and placed sections of terracotta pipe on the expanded portion of

the colony created by US Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS) last winter. Thirty large boxes of oyster shells, provided by the Johnson Oyster Co. in Point Reyes National Seashore, were filled and trucked back to Alameda by Leora Feeney and Carol Baxter. USFWS provided the terracotta tile pipe, and the driftwood was collected from the Alameda shoreline by refuge volunteers. Many thanks to Peets Coffee and Tea Co. in Alameda and to Noah's Bagels in Berkeley for providing morning coffee and bagels. Thanks also to Janice and Frank Delfino who brought bottles of orange juice and to Anne and Mike Richter for providing delicious bagel spreads. Janice and Frank Delfino also won the grand prize for most money raised for the event: a total of \$400.

How You Can Help

While the Restore-A-Thon is over, our restoration work goes on. On Saturday, January 8, beginning at 9 a.m., we will plant over 400 small seedlings at Harding Park Golf Course. In the Presidio, work parties take place the second Saturday of every month.

And in Alameda, we weed and pamper the Least Tern colony site the second Sunday of every month. Please join us! Call for directions to Harding Park, and call to let us know before you come out to Alameda: 510.843.2222.



Elizabeth Murdock

Becky, Alameda Wildlife Refuge Manager Chris Bandy's wife, prepares the Least Tern nesting area.



Alan Hopkins

Volunteers planting native seedlings at Harding Park.



Damien Raffa

A Restore-A-Thon team creates quail habitat at the Presidio.

Donations

Thank you for your generous donations to support our many conservation, education and member activities!

Golden Eagle (\$1000 or more)

Bob Bennett & Elizabeth Shih, *Classic Escapes (Australia Birding Trip)*, Mrs. Afton E. Crooks

Peregrine Falcon (\$500 to \$999)

Harold Kirker, Patricia S. Kline (*Latin America Committee & General Operations*), Thomas Merigan, Audre & Roger Newman

Least Tern (\$200 to \$499)

Gary & Christine Bard (*Restore-A-Thon*), Marjorie Blackwell, Pat Eckhardt, Dan Eisenstein, Pat Gannon, Andrew & Sharon Gillin, Charlotte Hill (*Restore-A-Thon*), Pansy Kwong, Marie Lipman, Jean Lucken, John Luther, Barbara Meyer (*Restore-A-Thon & General Operations*), George S. Peyton, Jr., Wendy Pulling, Inge Svoboda, Susan L. Thorner

Clapper Rail (\$100 to \$199)

Sonia & Alex Alland (*Restore-A-Thon*), Kay Andersen, Betty Austin, Janet Beeler, Marian W. Braumoeller, John H. Conley, Mike & Deborah Cussen, Linda Deaktor, Stan Deutsch, John Dukat, Michelle A. Ellis, Virginia M. Elmore, Katherine Erickson, William T. Espey, Leora Feeney (*Restore-A-Thon*), Mary & Tom Foote, Christa Goldblatt, Linda M. Griffith, Mr. & Mrs. Harlan J. Heydon, Joe & Pat Kinda (*Restore-A-Thon*), Elizabeth Land, Joseph P. Mark, Clyde Morris, Cheryl Y. Perkins, James & Phyllis Ross, Joyce & Jim Schnobrich, Yulling Tsai (*Restore-A-Thon & General Operations*), Ms. Mary L. Turner, Edward Walsh, Paul Weaver, William F. Weeden, Matt & JoAnn Zlatunich (*Restore-A-Thon & General Operations*)

Gifts (to \$99)

Ruth P. Anderson, Anonymous (*Restore-A-Thon*), Luanne & Nigel Annable, Clara H. Arakaki, Tony Arjo, Stefanie Arthur, Darren Atherton & Christine Wolfe, Lisa H. Baker, Martha V. Baker, Brenda Bailey, Ronald Barklow & Viola Saima-Barklow, Susan Barnes, Kevin Barrows, Susan Battersby, Willa K. Baum, Carol Baxter (*Restore-A-Thon*), Victoria Beckner, Magnus B. Bennedsen, Joan & Donald Bernstein, Nancy Berry, Ardith Betts, Nina Beutel, Bernice Biggs, Jane Bliss, Jan Blum (*Restore-A-Thon*), Betty Breslin, Robert J. Breuer, Corwin & Caroline Booth, Jacklyn T. Bort, Mary Brezner, Michelle D. Brodie, China Brotsky (*Restore-A-Thon*), Emma Brown, Jeffrey Brown, Vi Louise Bruene, Cheri Bryant, Dolores Butkus, Hillary Burri, Franchesca Callejo & Jim Brighton, Karola M. Carib, Linda S. Campbell (*Restore-A-Thon*), Chris Carpenter, Joseph & Susan Cerny, Tim Cleere, Helene Conant, Tom Condit, Richard Cooper (*Restore-A-Thon*), Patricia Corporal, Ralph Countryman, Sheila Curtin, Emily B. Date, Grace L. Davis, Adrienne DeBisschop (*Restore-A-Thon*), Jennifer Dees, Pearl M. Delventhal, M. June Dershewitz (*Restore-A-Thon*), Julianna Dickey, Leslie Dinkin, Susan Diridoni, Judith Dunham (*Restore-A-Thon*), Nancy Dutcher, Audrey M. Earl, Martin Eber, Barbara Eckhardt, Roy & Isako Egawa, Gerard A. Ehrmann, Drs. Peter Elias & Mary L. Williams, Robert A. Estopinal, Arthur Feinstein (*Restore-A-Thon*), Jim E. Fisher, Stephen & Susan Fisher, Bridget Flanagan, Pauline L. Fong, Comelia A. Foster (*Restore-A-Thon*), Virginia L. Fox, Leslie Friedman (*Restore-A-Thon*), Fumi Fukuda, Richard A. Gale (*Restore-A-Thon*), Rudolf Glauser, Denise Glover, Robert Goddard, Kay C. Godwin, David Goldweber, Sharon Gordon (*Restore-A-Thon*), James & Ruth Gravanis (*Restore-A-Thon*), Helen Green, Patricia S. Greene, Catherine Gross, David & Sharon Gumz, Suresh & Judith Ann Gurbaxani (*Restore-A-Thon & General Operations*), Kristi & Art Haigh, Nancy

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In Memory of

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In Honor of

Alan Hopkins' leadership & dedication: Bob Bennett (*Restore-A-Thon*)
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In-Kind

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every morning. Australian birds have the most lovely voices. Of course, there are exceptions: the catbird sounding just a like a cat in heat, the whipbird with its amazingly loud whip cracking sound. Most songs, however, were melodious and wonderful. Truly another world and an amazing one. Since Queensland is having a drought, our weather was filled with sunny days. I imagine when it's true rainforest weather, the experience would be a lot wetter.

Other sights included Carpet and Amethyst Pythons, a poisonous snake or two, lots of dragons and other lizards, and flying foxes (fruit bats) in the thousands right in the middle of cities. We saw many kangaroos and wallabies and other Australian marsupials such as sugar gliders (similar to flying squirrels but a type of opossum and really cute). Only one of us saw a platypus and only one saw a koala bear, but it mattered little when there were so many other interesting creatures.

Half of our group was chased by a five- to six-foot Cassowary—a bird that on occasion actually kills or seriously injures people. As the person closest to the charging Cassowary, let me tell you it's a pretty intense experience—much more fun in the telling than in the experiencing. But it is an astounding-looking bird. (No photos of the chase, alas.)

Australians must be the friendliest people in the world, typified by our Australian nature guide, Damon Ramsey. In addition to his tremendous knowledge of Australia's wildlife, Damon assumed much of the burden of resolving housing and travel glitches (never any too serious), and kept us entertained nonstop for two weeks. A great guide and wonderful guy. Plus, he introduced us to "flat whites" (coffee with milk—like a latte but with regular coffee).

Our thanks to George Peyton for organizing this trip, to Damon Ramsey for providing a wealth of information and charm, and to all of our trip companions who were great company and are now friends. This was my wife Ruth's and my own first international Golden Gate Audubon trip, and biased though I am, I can truly say Golden Gate Audubon knows how to do it right.

by Arthur Feinstein, Conservation Director

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